

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 12695 021230Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 CU-04 /027 W

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O 021215Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6720

UNCLAS LONDON 12695

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: ILTF/USTA COLLABORATION IN WEST AFRICA

REF: STATE 179720

1. AS REQUESTED REFTEL. DAVID GRAY CONTACTED TODAY AND PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING RESPONSES TO QUERIES CONCERNING SUBJECT:

A. THE DATE FOR THE TOURNAMENT WILL BE FIXED AT THE END OF AUGUST. HE HAS OFFERED TO CONTACT AMBASSADOR EASUM AS SOON AS HE HAS DEFINITIVE DATES; AS HE WILL BE IN NEW YORK, EMBOFF SUGGESTED HE MIGHT MAKE THIS CONTACT THRU STATE BY TELEPHONE. IF YOU CAN GIVE US NAME AND NUMBER IN DEPARTMENT, WE WILL PASS TO GRAY PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM LONDON.

B. PRIZE MONEY NOW LOOKS TO BE IN THE AREA OF \$50,000 RPT \$50,000. GRAY VIEWS THE TOURNAMENT AS A SORT OF "NOBLESSEOBLIGE" AFFAIR FOR US PLAYERS. HE HOPES THE PRIZE AMOUNT WILL SERVE TO STIMULATE FOUR OR SO US BIG-NAME PLAYERS TO PARTICIPATE. HE VIEWS THIS LEVEL OF US PARTICIPATION AS "TERRIBLY IMPORTANT".

2. ON A SEPARATE SUBJECT, GRAY MENTIONED THE QUESTION OF THE "COACHING TOUR". ALTHOUGH THE DISCUSSIONS ARE CURRENTLY AT A DELICATE STAGE, UNITED AFRICAN COMPANY SUPPORT APPEARS TO BE ON A MORE SOLID BASIS NOW. LOOKS QUITE FAVORABLE TO GRAY AT THIS POINT. HE HAS SENT UNCLASSIFIED

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(YESTERDAY) A LETTER TO AMBASSADOR EASUM FULLY COVERING THE COACHING TOUR SITUATION.

3. GRAY IS PLANNING TO SEE DELL IN THE US DURING THE PERIOD AUGUST 26-SEPTEMBER 6, AND WILL DISCUSS US PARTICIPANTS IN LAGOS TOURNAMENT AT THAT TIME. FYI: HE PLANS TO BE IN BOSTON AUGUST 26-28, AND IN FORREST HILLS FROM AUGUST 28-SEPTEMBER 6 (AT THE MARRIOTT ESSEX

HOUSE ON PARK CENTRAL SOUTH).

4. PLEASE ADVISE CONCERNING CONTACT METHODOLOGY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LONDON12695
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770276-0488
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197708107/aaaadmvy.tel
Line Count: 64
Litigation Code IDs:
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 179720
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1421119
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ILTF/USTA COLLABORATION IN WEST AFRICA
TAGS: OGEN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f0e59e4f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009